

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

(2) a toner for electrophotography comprising comprising the binder resin
(A) for a toner as described in (1); and

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

The binder resin (A) for a toner of the present invention may includes include an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, a xylene resin, polyolefin and the like.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

In the present invention, the Processes (I), (II) and (III) are carried out in a twin screw extruder. The twin screw extruder is capable of fully mixing a resin and water with ease and removing the volatile portion in a continuous process.

Furthermore, the carboxyl group-containing vinyl resin (B) and the epoxy group-containing vinyl resin (C) are homogeneously melt-mixed so that the reaction can homogeneously proceed. In the twin screw extruder a clearance between an outer diameter of a screw and a cylinder is from 1 mm to 5 mm, preferably from 1.5 mm to 4 mm, and more preferably from 2 mm to 3 mm. When the clearance between an outer diameter of a screw and a cylinder is less than 1 mm, the melt-mixed resin remains in the twin screw extruder, causing vent-up in some cases. When it is greater than 5 mm, the resin can not fill the twin screw extruder and, ~~consequently can~~ consequently can not be melt-mixed sufficiently and therefore the resin will not be mixed with water properly. So, the volatile component can not be removed, and the reaction proceeds heterogeneously in some cases.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8, with the following new paragraph:

In the Process (II), the pressure (P_w) of water which is introduced into the twin screw extruder is $1 \text{ MPa} \leq P_w \leq 3 \text{ MPa}$, and preferably $2.1 \text{ MPa} \leq P_w \leq 2.5 \text{ MPa}$. When P_w is within this range, water is sufficiently injected into the resin and the melt-mixed resin [[cann]] can be sufficiently mixed with water, so that the volatile component is effectively removed. In the present invention, the pressure refers to a gauge pressure, that is, a value calculated by subtracting an atmospheric pressure from an absolute pressure based on a vacuum unless otherwise defined.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The acid value was obtained by the neutralization titration. 5 g of the sample was dissolved in 50 ml of a mixed solvent of xylene / dimethylformamide =1:1 (mass ratio) and several droplets of a solution of phenolphthalein and ethanol were added thereto as an indicator, and then, titrated with a 1/10 normal KOH aqueous solution. The titration was completed at a point where the color of the sample solution was painted from colorless to purple. The acid value (KOHmg/g) was calculated from the amount of the titration and the mass of the samplee sample.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

Example 1

93 parts of a carboxyl group-containing vinyl resin (acid value: 9.8) was mixed with 7 parts of an epoxy group-containing vinyl resin (epoxy equivalent: 5,550) using a Henschel mixer or the like. While reacting the resulting mixture at 200°C of

the resin temperature at the discharge portion of the twin screw extruder using a twin screw extruder (KEXNS-40, manufactured by Kurimoto, Ltd., a clearance between an outer diameter of a screw and a cylinder: 3 mm), water was injected thereinto once at 2.0 MPa. The contact time of the resin with water was 1.5 seconds. Furthermore, a pressure reducing pump was equipped at a pressure reducing port installed at an outlet side from the above water inlet and inlet and the volatile component was removed by reducing the pressure down to 0.095 MPa based on an absolute pressure. After 90 seconds of the residence time, the resin taken out from the discharge portion was cooled and solidified using a chill roll and ground using a grinder to obtain a binder resin for a toner (resin A-1). The amount of the volatile component remained in the resin was measured, and as a result, the total amount of the volatile components was 155 ppm, of which the amount of styrene was 40 ppm and that of xylene was 90 ppm. The content of the gel component was 8%.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Comparative Example 3

93 parts of a carboxyl group-containing vinyl resin was mixed with 7 parts of an epoxy group-containing vinyl resin using a Henschel mixer or the like. The resulting mixture was dissolved in xylene in a reactor with a stirrer and an outlet (the outlet was sealed). Then, while the solvent was removed under a temperature condition of 200°C, the reaction and drying were carried out. However, due to the Weissenberg Weissenberg effect, even though the outlet was opened, the resin could not be discharged from the reactor.